



The Resonator

Official Newsletter of The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club

Volume 9, Number 5

www.FairLawnARC.org

May 2024.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Ham Radio at Great Falls Historical Park
- 2 Notable Hams – 9N1MM
- 4 Technician License CLASS announcement
- 5 Extra License CLASS announcement
- 6 The Sunday Morning Breakfast Club
- 7 FLARC Info Flyer
- 8 Special Events – James KB2FMH
- 9 FLARC on You Tube
- 11 Officers, Committees and Assignments
- 14 Editor's Corner – Jim Jalil W2KNG
- 6, 15 FLARC Info Archives
- 17 Live at the Club – Pop-Up Tuesdays
- 18 Around the Shack – Hal Kennedy N4GG
- 21 Theoretics – Fred W2ABE
- 22 Hamspeak – Fred W2ABE
- 22 Travel the World
- 23 SIG Report - Portable Ops
- 24 Pay FLARC Dues On-Line
- 25 FLARC Membership / Renewal Form
- 26 Renew ARRL Membership via FLARC
- 27 Business Meeting Notes

FLARC to demo Ham Radio on Earth Day at Paterson Great Falls Historical Site

On Thursday, May 9th, members of FLARC will once again demonstrate Ham Radio during the annual River Cleanup and Earth Day event at the Great Falls National Historical Park.

This year we will use the club call sign, W2NPT, rather than a 1x1 Special Event call (we have used W2E several times in the past). In addition to showing off Ham Radio to several hundred Paterson (NJ) students – from elementary school up to the prestigious Technical Academies – we will be operating as a POTA activation of park US-0751.



The students come to the park with their classes and teachers. The students spend some time 'down at the river' cleaning up litter and learning about the river ecology from the park rangers.

After that, they visit a dozen or more exhibits by various environmental and ecology agencies and organizations, as well as our ham radio demo.

Those who are interested will be able to talk over a 2 meter HT to local hams, and perhaps even talk over HF to other states or DX countries.

We'll have a world map and example QSL cards.

AND we'll have our famous introduction to Morse Code — "the secret language" with Capt. Larry.

**Remember:
Ham Radio Is a Contact Sport!**

Notable Hams

by Jim Jalil W2KNG

This column features notable hams both past and present. This month we will feature one of the best known DX figures in the second half of the 20th century. He was so well known that he often did not even have to call CQ. He would simply say "Mickey Mouse." Hams around the world instantly knew who that was and the pile up would begin. Of course we are referring to the Catholic missionary Jesuit priest, Fr. Marshall Moran 9N1MM.



Fr. Marshall Moran 9N1MM

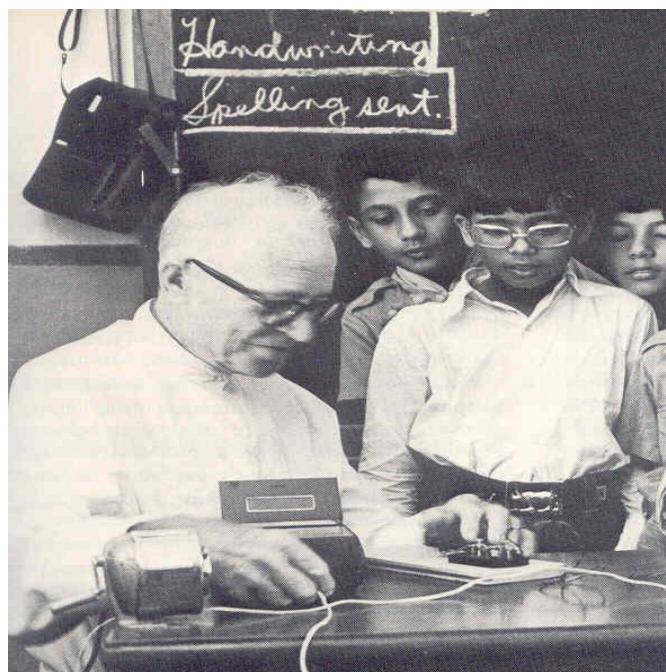
Father Moran was born in Chicago in 1906. He joined the Society of Jesus, better known as the Jesuits, in 1924 though he would not be ordained a priest, and therefore a full Jesuit, until 1935.

While still studying for the priesthood Fr Moran was sent to India in 1929. He would remain in Southeast Asia for the rest of his life.

Father Moran's particular calling was education, which has always been the focus of the Jesuits. In India he taught at various high schools as well as at Patna University in Bihar.

Fr. Moran worked in India until 1950 when he was permitted by the Nepalese government to open a high school in Nepal. There were a couple of non-negotiable conditions attached to the invitation as prescribed by King Tribhuvan of Nepal, however, and to which Fr. Moran readily agreed. His work was

confined only to the education of young people, only in the Kathmandu Valley, and he was not permitted to proselytize.



9N1MM demonstrating ham radio to his students

Under those conditions he moved to Nepal in 1951, the first Jesuit to be permitted into the country since 1721. There he opened St Xavier's High School in Godavari, Nepal in 1951 and in 1955 St Mary's High School in Jawalakhel, Nepal.

These schools brought modern education to Nepal and took in students of all faiths and backgrounds, the education of young people always being Fr. Moran's primary goal.

Over the years Fr. Moran became revered and beloved by the Nepalese people from the King on down. He was outgoing, jovial, non-judgmental and from many accounts, the "life of the party." He was universally recognized on his motorcycle, his white robes flowing behind him as he barreled down the back roads of Nepal. He became the center of the Christian population of Nepal, which at the time consisted mainly of foreign diplomats and workers, all of whom flocked to Fr. Moran for religious services.

His respect and love for the Nepalese people, their culture and traditions, however, was what made him such a legend in the country. He was careful never to push his religious beliefs on others, but was always

Continued on next page.

Notable Hams, continued

ready to witness to his own beliefs. He mingled easily with the King of Nepal, who considered Fr. Moran a close personal friend. He was friendly with high government officials, as well as the parents of his students, many of whom came from the poorer segments of society. He was the same person with everyone: kind, respectful and quick with a smile.

Fr. Moran was interested in ham radio as a child in Chicago but received his first license in India in 1947 with the call sign VU2SX. He would remain a ham for the rest of his life. When he moved to Nepal in 1951 there was no formal mechanism for obtaining a ham radio license.

However this did not pose a problem for Fr. Moran. He simply asked the King of Nepal if he could operate a ham radio station in Nepal, a request which the King quickly granted. So Fr. Moran gave himself the call sign 9N1MM, a call which eventually became legendary.

For many years Fr. Moran was the only ham in Nepal, so one can imagine how rare a DX contact that was. He became known as the “Voice of the Himalayas” and was very active on the air from 1951 until his death in 1992. Over the years 9N1MM made over 90,000 contacts.

What is interesting about that is Fr. Moran did not operate as a rapid fire DXpedition. He loved to talk to people and made innumerable friends around the world with his universally respected kindness and excellent operating skills. He was also instrumental in emergency communications during earthquakes and floods in his region as well as famously using ham radio to provide the communications needed to save climbers trapped on Mount Everest.

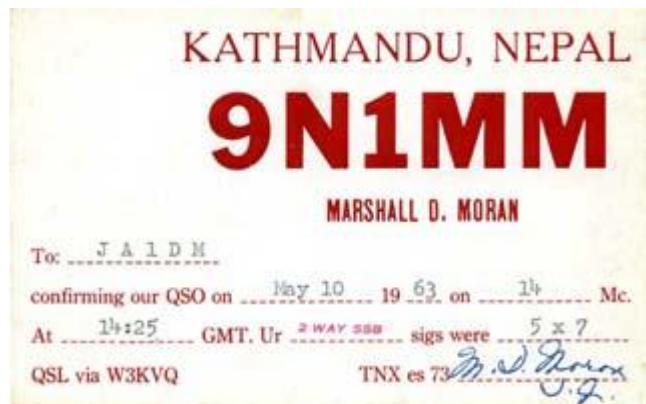
In all Fr. Moran was a ham's ham.



Fr. Moran's Station in Nepal

Older hams will no doubt remember a time when 9N1MM was one of the most famous call signs in the world and when a QSO with Fr. Moran was considered the highlight of the year.

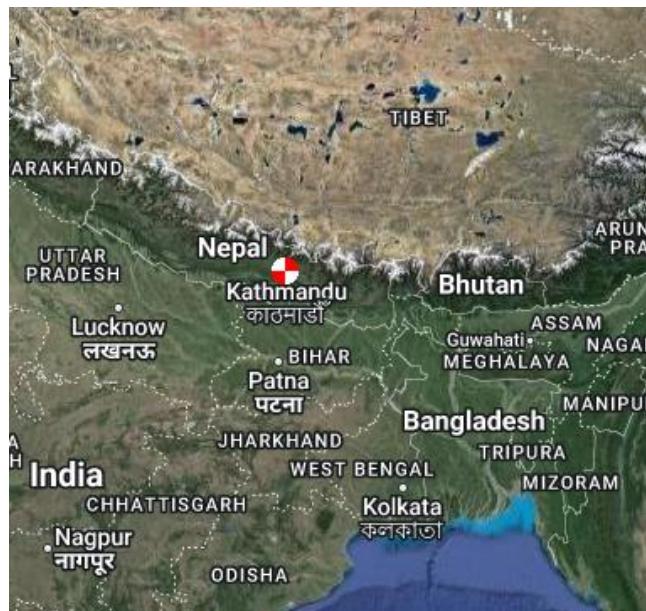
For those who had the privilege of working him, he spoke in a slow, kind voice, never rushing a QSO and trying to get to know the ham on the other side of the world. He held regular rag chews with such notable hams as J1Y, the King of Jordan, who was a good friend, but would spend an equal amount of time with any ham lucky enough to get through the pile up.



Fr. Moran received many awards during his life, including the International Humanitarian Award from the American Radio Relay League.

He was a beloved figure in his adopted land and a legend among the people of Nepal. But to us he was simply Marshall, 9N1MM — a ham, one of us.

Reverend Marshall Moran, SJ... 9N1MM, SK



Ham Radio Class Now Forming

ARC Squared Radio club will be holding a 2-day in-person Technician Radio License class where you can learn everything you need to pass your 35-question exam and earn your **Technician (entry level) FCC Amateur Radio License.**

The Technician license is your gateway to the world-wide excitement of Amateur Radio and emergency communication ... and now you do NOT need to learn Morse code!

Class: 2 days (Saturday and Sunday) May 18-19

Time: 8:00 am to about 5 pm

Location: Fairfield, NJ Red Cross office

209 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004

Class Fee: \$15 (snacks & facility)

Exam Fee: \$15 (payable at exam)

FCC Fee: \$35 (payable to FCC after exam)

Schedule:

- Class: all day Saturday, 8:30 am to about 5 pm
- Review: Sunday, 9 am to about 1 pm
- Exam: Sunday, after review

Registration required: (with full name, address, cell number)

Registration closes May 1st or class reaches full capacity of 20.

You will need to get an FCC Registration Number (FRN), instructions for getting FRN upon registration.

To register or to ask questions, email: **NB1LL@ARRL.net**

Instructor: Bill Kelly, NB1LL

(that is a #1 in NB1LL)

ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®

Ham Radio Class Now Forming

The ARC2 Radio Club will be holding a 2-day in-person Amateur Extra Radio License CRAM class where you can learn what you need to pass your 50-question exam and earn your upgrade to a **Amateur Extra FCC Amateur Radio License.**

General or Advanced licensees may upgrade to Extra Class.

The test covers some of the more obscure regulations, specialized operating practices, advanced electronics theory and radio equipment design.

Class: 2 days (Saturday and Sunday) June 8-9

Time: 8:00 am to about 5 pm

Location: Fairfield, NJ Red Cross office

209 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004

Class Fee: \$15 (snacks & facility)

Exam Fee: \$15 (payable at exam)

Schedule:

- Pre-Studying is required.
- Class: all day Saturday, 8 am to about 5 pm
- Review: Sunday, 8 am to about 2 pm
- Exam: Sunday, after review

Registration required: (*with full name, address, cell number, call sign*)

Registration closes June 1st or when class reaches full capacity of 20.

To register or to ask questions, email: **NB1LL@ARRL.net**

Instructor: Bill Kelly, NB1LL (that is a #1 in NB1LL)



Sunday Morning Breakfast Club

The Sunday Morning Breakfast Club continues to grow in attendance and popularity.

Each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM several members gather at the Clubhouse to work on projects, talk about ham radio and eat bagels. This is an excellent opportunity to spend a few minutes with fellow hams as well as use the workbench, test equipment and tools available to FLARC members.

If you have a project you are working on, a kit you're putting together, or you just want to eat bagels, why not come to the Clubhouse on Sunday morning.

If you have any questions or need an extra hand on a project or kit, Sunday morning at the FLARC Clubhouse is the place to be.

2024 Dues Are Due

Dues for 2024 are over-due now. There are no changes to dues for the upcoming year. Renew now, and let us know what activities or features would make you more active with the club.

Please make checks payable to:
"Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club"
and send them to:

Fair Lawn ARC
– Attn: Treasurer
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Please include a member application form with your \$25 check regardless of your member status.
It can be found near the back of this newsletter.



The Resonator Is Now Archived!

Ever wanted to search for something in *The Resonator*? Maybe a member profile. Perhaps a past Street Fair. Even who participated at Field Day in 2017.

Now you can. *The Resonator* has now been accepted as part of the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications. DLARC is a project of the Internet Archive (the not-for-profit online library best known for *The Wayback Machine*.) DLARC is growing to be a massive online library of the past and present of ham radio and related communications. It is funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications.

When you need to find something, go to:

<https://archive.org/details/flarc-resonator>

You can use the search "text contents" field to do a full-text search on all issues or click "Date Published" to see them sorted by publication date.

You know our little newsletter is cool.

Now a lot more hams around the world will as well.

Get Direct With FLARC!

Here is a direct link to specific club info: just a click away!

<http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://events.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://exams.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://news.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://swap.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://tech.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

<https://groups.io/g/FairLawnARC>



Online License Testing!

Are you looking to get your license or upgrade without leaving your home? All you need is a laptop computer with a video camera.

Please check out <http://hamstudy.org/session/K2sab> for session information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at k2sab@arrl.net

73,

Steven Boston K2SAB

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio

Why is FLARC New Jersey's Most Exciting Radio Club?

Annual and Special Events



- Field Day
- Winter Field Day
- World Amateur Radio Day
- Portable Day
- Earth and Environmental Days
- Field Trips
- Club Exchanges
- Special Event
- Public Service Activities
- Public Events
- Ham fests and Auctions
- Foxhunts
- Contests
- Youth Activities and more



There Is Something Every Night At FLARC!

Monday: Near and Far Net

Tuesday: DMR Net and Open House at the clubhouse

Wednesday: ARES/RACES Net

Thursday: Tech Net

Friday: Open House at the clubhouse or *Kawfee Tawk* Speaker Series (Monthly via Zoom)

Weekends: Open House at the clubhouse, POTA and other station activations, Contests, Foxhunts



Special Interest Groups

- Portable Ops (POTA, SOTA, etc.)
- DX: Chase the rare ones
- Digital Voice: DMR and other modes
- FT8: Plus, other WSJT modes
- Satellite: Also, for weather interests
- Monitoring: SWL and other listening
- Contesting
- EMCOMM
- Radio Direction Finding
- Raspberry pi, Arduino



Plus:

- A five-position operating station clubhouse
- An active repeater—W2NPT linked with NJ2BS.
- New antennas on the roof
- Monthly VE testing
- An award-winning newsletter
- Monthly speaker programs
- Educational programs and activities
- Active in-person and social networking
- An extensive video education archive

That is Why FLARC Is the Most Exciting Club Around!

Come join us in-person or via Zoom for more activities, speakers, and projects!

www.fairlawnarc.org



Events

Special Events chair James KB2FMH

Newly appointed Special Events chair James **KB2FMH**, reports on three recent activities:

Sure, there are Fun Special Events like chasing the “13 Colonies,” “Route 66” or “12 Days of Christmas,” but then there are those that have a significance to people around the world.



The first Special Event of 2024 was the **K2C** –Childhood Cancer Day on February 15 in which several FLARC members participated as operators, helping to raise support for the St. Jude Children’s Hospital continued research in reducing suffering for children stricken with various cancers. There is nothing worse than a child suffering and our efforts helped raise thousands of dollars for the Hospital to help families of victims of this horrible disease.



Next was the big one, **W2A** –

World Autism Awareness Week April 1 to 7. This was the second annual event operation, now being called the largest international cooperative on-air activity in Amateur Radio, with over 100 active operators in 32 countries using 40 unique calls.

Operators from the countries listed below made over 17,000 contacts, helping to spread the word that it's “OK to be Different” while eliciting financial aid to their local support groups helping families impacted by ASD, Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Many of these countries would otherwise be considered Rare DX locations but for us, they volunteered their time, particularly our friend in Seychelles, Ravi **S79VU**, who operated daily giving thousands of callers the coveted **S76A** call in their log while supporting his own relatives afflicted with ASD.

They are, along with 44 operators across the US (*Including our wonderful FLARC members*):

Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, British Columbia, Canada, Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Scotland, Seychelles, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UAE, Venezuela, Wales, West Malaysia and Qatar.

Together they made over 17,000 unique contacts across 138 countries during the seven days of operating.

Many of the operators helping with these two events were also in parks allowing for building their POTA credits while being part of something serving humanity.

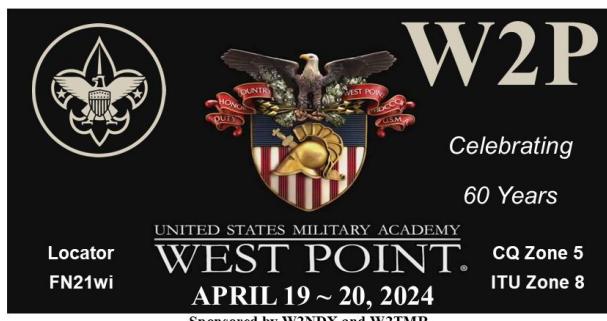


The last one prior to this writing was **W2P**– the West Point Military Academy's 60th Annual Scout Camporee where 3,400 boys and girls, along with a myriad of adult volunteer leaders gather on the parade field at Lake Frederick in Orange County NY to have a

Continued on next page.

Events, cont'd

fun-filled weekend of exciting challenges hosted by the Cadets of the West Point Scoutmasters' Council.



60th Annual Scout Camporee

The Scouts see and learn things found nowhere else in the Scouting world and we were happy to be part of it, offering Scouts the opportunity to talk to others around the world and learn about the wonders of Ham Radio. Some took advantage of this to complete requirements for their Radio and Communications Merit Badges.

The Next one coming up is W2F –



Fleet Week NY where Navy ships from around the world converge in NY Harbor for a week of fun for the visiting Sailors, along with our own Coast Guard and Marine vessels.

Our operators visit the locations of various ships to celebrate their visit by operating as close as possible and some even visit the ships for a VIP tour given by the gracious Captains.

This year the activity will take place on May 22 to welcome the ships as they enter NY Bay under the Verrazano Bridge.

See you in the Pileups!

James Gallo, KB2FMH

FLARC on YouTube

A valuable resource for all hams, and especially our members, is the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio YouTube Channel.

There you will find archived talks on a variety of very interesting, timely and useful topics. Moreover, perhaps after listening to one of the talks you may be inspired to build an antenna, take on a new project, or research further on a topic of interest.

You may even be inspired to put together a presentation of your own.

The talks are generally not very long, never over-technical, and always entertaining. These archived talks are a valuable library of knowledge – there just for the asking, or we should say, clicking.

It is not always easy to find experts who willingly give their time and share their expertise, but on the FLARC YouTube channel you will very likely find an expert and a topic of interest.

These talks can be accessed at

<http://youtube.fairlawnarc.org>

As Yogi Berra once said, "You can observe a lot just by watching."

YouTube

Search

FairlawnARC.org

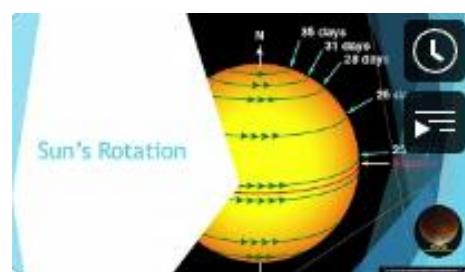
@FairlawnARC • 1.36K subscribers • 175 videos

We are celebrating our 68th year of Ham Radio Operation

fairlawnarc.org and 2 more links

Subscribe

Thom Guida W2NZ is our club videographer, and he takes great pride in not just recording the presentation but also editing each one to make it visually and aurally pleasing — not to mention the striking and innovative graphic animations and transitions he develops.



Events, cont'd

I was happy to participate in the 60th West Point Military Academy Scouts Camporee along with Steve WI2W, Ken W2SCT and coordinated by James KB2FMH. James was nice enough to invite operators from all around to come down and participate in this annual event.

We had many scouts and adults from all over the country at this event and we were happy to represent amateur radio and show many curious scouts and adults what amateur radio is all about. They had an attendance of about 3,500 participants at this event. Thank you James KB2FMH for the invite, looking forward to next year.

Noel Pagan W2MSA



The Club Fair Lawn ARC is the fastest growing ham club around, with five operating positions in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The club is open every Friday night, except when there is a Business Meeting scheduled, from NLT 6:30 PM. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30PM.

2023 Officers, Committees and Assignments

President	Fred Belghaus	KR2H
Vice President	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Treasurer	David Gotlib	KD2MOB
Secretary	Jim Jalil	W2KNG
Trustee	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN
Trustee	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Trustee	Lowell "Van" VantSlot	W2DLT
<i>Member Services</i> <i>Health & Welfare</i>	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
<i>Marketing</i>	Nomar Vizcarrondo Jim Cooper	NP4H W2JC
<i>Program</i>	[open]	
<i>Video/YouTube</i>	Thom Guida	W2NZ
<i>Social Media</i>	Brian Duddy Thom Guida Dave Marotti	N2BTD W2NZ NK2Q
<i>Photographer</i>	Giovanni Lucero Robert Marchini	K2GIO KD2SOG
<i>Community Relations</i>	Gene Ottenheimer Dave Gotlib	WO2W KD2MOB
<i>Field Day</i>	[open]	
<i>Hamfest</i>	[open]	
<i>Auction</i>	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN
<i>Activities Chair</i>	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
<i>Education</i>	Bill Kelly Paul Brennan	NB1LL N6FB
<i>Youth Outreach</i>	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
<i>Adult Outreach</i>	Lowell "Van" VantSlot Jim Cooper	W2DLT W2JC
<i>VE Testing Coordinator</i>	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
<i>Special Events</i>	James Gallo	KB2FMH
<i>Contests</i>	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
<i>FLARC Historian</i>	Fred Belghaus	KR2H [W2AAB]
<i>Webmaster</i>	Jim Cooper	W2JC
<i>Technical Chair</i>	Dave deCoons	WO2X
<i>EmComm</i> <i>RACES/ARES Director</i> <i>RACES/ARES Liaison</i>	Jim Breheny Dave Gotlib Steve Wraga	N2JLF KD2MOB WA2BYX
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Jim Jalil	W2KNG
<i>Newsletter Publisher</i>	Jim Cooper	W2JC
<i>Club Station Manager</i>	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
<i>Quartermaster</i>	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
<i>W2NPT Trustee</i>	Jim Cooper	W2JC
<i>NK2H Trustee</i>	Ed Efchak	WX2R

President serves as ex officio to all committees

Want a Call Sign License Plate?

Amateur Radio (Ham operators) license plates may be purchased for a \$15 fee, for passenger vehicles, but not for commercial vehicles or motorcycles. (Applicants must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.)

Call MVC at 609.292.6500 or (toll free in NJ) 888.486.3339 to request an application.

Find the form and detailed instructions at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/vehicles/SP-23.pdf>

The vehicle must be owned or leased by the applicant.



Letters:

A New Addition to *The Resonator*

The editor has received a lot of nice notes, letters and comments about this newsletter and the club in general. We have not published them in the past but going forward we will at least try.

Here are the grounds rules:

- Please keep all comments as brief and succinct as possible.
- No personal attacks.
- No political rants.
- No comments promoting violence, racism, religious intolerance, vulgarity, obscenity, or other such discourteous behavior.
- The Editor reserves the right to exclude any comments that violate our guidelines and may subject the writer to further disciplinary action by the club.

A QSL card is the final courtesy of an amateur radio contact.

PAY YOUR DUES NOW!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL_card



Hidetsugu Yagi's 130th Birthday Google Doodle

Follow FLARC ON THE WEB

Facebook: <http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>

Twitter: @FairLawnARC

Blog: <http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>

Youtube: <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Website: <http://FairLawnARC.org>

SIG Group Membership as of April 27, 2024

Here is an update on the roster of Special Interest Groups...many groups have increased in size during the last month. About 45% of all members have joined at least one group.

EMCOMM	11
Contesting	14
Digital Voice	30
Monitoring	25
DX	18
FT8	22
Satellite	20
Portable Ops	47
Radio Astronomy	4
Raspberry pi	7
Direction Finding	6
FLARC General	171

Sign up for a group... or ...

why not start one?

Contact webmaster@FairLawnARC.org
if you would like to start a new
Special Interest Group.

The Clubhouse Is Open Four Fridays In May!!

Date	Clubhouse Status
May 3	CLOSED – Business Meeting at Fair Lawn Senior Center
May 10	OPEN
May 17	OPEN
May 24	OPEN
May 31	OPEN



**Pop-Up Tuesdays are now in-person at the club
as well as in the Zoom-room.**

The club will follow all borough COVID-19 requirements for these events.



Pop-Up Tuesday informal "ragchew"
TUESDAY at 19:00 EDT in ZOOM-room
and live AT THE CLUB.

Editor's Corner

While recently using DX Summit I came across a fake call intended to disparage FT8. The “spotter” left his own call, so out of curiosity, I opened his QRZ page. His “biography” was an extensive rant against FT8 - all who use it, etc. etc. etc. We get it.... he doesn’t like FT8. The obvious reaction is simply this, if you don’t like FT8, don’t use it.

But the rant was more than a diatribe against FT8 and all who find it interesting and make contacts through that mode. At the heart of the rant was the tired old.... “that’s not ham radio.”

If there is one thing more opposite to the true spirit of amateur radio it is the tired old... “that’s not ham radio.” Or worse yet.... not only is that not ham radio, it will destroy ham radio.

Here are some of the things that at one time or another were not ham radio and would destroy ham radio: communication at wave lengths shorter than 200 meters, continuous sinusoidal waves (CW), amplitude modulation (AM), single sideband (SSB) (who wants to sound like Donald Duck?), VHF repeaters... and we could go on and on. The point is, if a mode of operation is different than what has been used in the past, well, to some that’s not ham radio and it’s going to destroy ham radio.... which really means... that’s not the ham radio I am used to.

What is so offensive about that is, from a technical perspective, the true spirit of ham radio (the core of ham radio and the crowning glory of ham radio) is, and always has been, innovation. Innovation, by definition, means something new, something that is different than what has come before. Innovation is what ham radio has always been all about.

Hams innovate all the time. What ham has not experimented with different types of antennas, tried different equipment configurations, has not tinkered with his or her ham shack? We innovate all the time, maybe not to the extent that Joe Taylor K1JT has, but we do innovate. Every month there is an article in QST that can be said to be innovative at some level. If it weren’t for ham radio innovation we would still be spinning spark gaps at 200 meters.

Ham radio is also a very (very) big tent. We have contesters and rag chewers, DXers and QRPs, we have committed CW operators and hams who can’t spell their name in Morse Code. We have hams with stacked beams on 80 foot towers and hams running

milliwatts through a random wire. We have hams using amateur radio to communicate with model airplanes and hams who bounce RF off the moon. We have some hams who use digital modes and some who travel to exotic places to operate DXpeditions. Ham radio is the 12 year old excited to work Ohio and the veteran ham on the DXCC Honor Roll. Every single one is a ham, and every single activity is ham radio.

So rants against any new mode or new way of using RF is “not ham radio” run contrary to two precious qualities of ham radio... innovation and acceptance. Innovation is the foundation of ham radio. It is the responsibility of every ham to have a certain level of technical understanding of radio (that’s why we require an examination before we are granted a license). Heaven knows not everyone has the same level of technical understanding, but every ham should have enough technical understanding to realize that innovation is the life force that propels ham radio into the future, and some level of technical curiosity to appreciate that innovation.

Acceptance is what makes ham radio special. Acceptance has many forms, though. One aspect of acceptance is respect of a fellow ham, as a ham; even if his or her interest lies in an aspect of ham radio which is of no interest to another ham. It is offensive and egocentric to denigrate another ham or mode because we find that mode of no interest.

The highway of the history of ham radio is littered with rants about what is not ham radio and what is going to destroy ham radio. CW turned out to be ham radio and didn’t destroy ham radio; AM turned out to be ham radio & didn’t destroy ham radio; SSB turned out to be ham radio didn’t destroy ham radio, VHF repeaters turned out to be ham radio and didn’t destroy ham radio; and FT8 is ham radio and is not going to destroy ham radio. Moreover, the next innovation, whatever it may be, will be ham radio and will not destroy ham radio. We cannot say with certainty what that next innovation will be, but we can predict with certainty that it will come and it will be disruptive, if not mind boggling. What we can also predict with certainty is that when that innovation comes along there will be some who will say: “that’s not ham radio and it’s going to destroy ham radio”... and they will be wrong, once again.

Ham radio is a big tent on a fast moving platform. Let’s all enjoy the ride... together.

Jim Jalil W2KNG

Vast Archive of FLARC Activities and Info

Members are reminded that we have a large archive of YouTube videos of our previous many years of Kawfee Tawk™ presentations, which cover many aspects of ham radio. Our mostly unsung hero club videographer, Thom W2NZ, has spent thousands of hours of his own time creating really professional quality videos of these 167 presentations. Visit our club YouTube page and you will see all of them listed on the main page, at <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Another large and rather unused archive is that of our seven years of the club newsletter, The Resonator. They provide a nice historical record of the many activities of FLARC over the years, as well as lots of useful info about ham radio and electronics. The entire archive is at <http://newsletters.FairLawnARC.org>

And don't forget the FILES area of our groups.io website, where useful and important info is saved:

<https://fairlawnarc.groups.io/g/main/files>

Renew Your ARRL Dues... Send Free Money to FLARC!

The ARRL has a great program to support affiliated clubs in that it sends part of your dues back to the club if you renew through the club.

So... when you get your ARRL renewal, send both your check and your renewal application to our trusty Treasurer, who will take care of getting your renewal to Newington and a fat check for \$5.00 back to FLARC.

Nothing can be simpler...
you just have to remember!!

Print and use the
form on page 26
of this issue of

The Resonator



Club Apparel — Get Them While They're RED!

Club apparel is always in vogue. Red is always "in" and your club friends all have them... you want a shirt or jacket for the next FLARC event! Great for Field Day!

Don't forget.... they're easy to order.
Go to www.hamthreads.com
or visit <http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>

Check out the item selection that is posted on the FLARC website (with pictures and prices). Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC logo or the still-cool 60th anniversary logo. Note: RED is the primary and preferred club standard shirt color.

And why not WEAR your nice red shirt when you come to the club, especially for meetings and events.



It's easy to spot FLARC members
wearing their red club shirts !

Ham Radio Is Contagious And It Won't Make You Sick!!

2024 FLARC Nets On The W2NPT Repeater:

Near and Far Net Mondays at 8PM

W2NPT Repeater and EchoLink

Special Note: As non-profit, the IRS now requires that we disclose annually the use of paid lobbyists to our members and indicate approximately what percentage of their dues goes toward that. 0% of your dues payment will be used by the club to directly pay a lobbyist firm to lobby on behalf of all our members regarding pending legislation that impacts our hobby.



NEWHAMS.INFO

Training, information, and encouragement for new amateur radio operators.

<https://newhams.info/>

BEQUEATHS AND DONATIONS

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide lifetime income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such a gift is worthy.

About The Club

The Resonator is published monthly and is the official (and only) newsletter of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. FLARC was established in 1956 and has met continuously since inception. The club is sponsored by the Borough of Fair Lawn. The club meets every Friday, except when a Business Meeting is scheduled, at 6PM at the club station in The Fair Lawn Community Center, 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, and on Zoom.

Visitors ARE ALWAYS welcome at our meetings.

FLARC operates the W2NPT repeater (145.470- PL 167.9) located high atop the Community Center. The analog repeater is open to all amateurs for use without restrictions.

The club has nearly two hundred paid members.

Dues are currently \$25 per year;
 \$20 for new members.

For more information, please see our website, at
<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

All content in *The Resonator* is protected by copyright ©2024.
No other use without permission.

Content and opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club, its Officers or members. Contributors grant express permission to FLARC to distribute articles in this or any issue of *The Resonator*. Authors also grant express permission for the use and/or repurposing of these articles, in part or in full, in other publications with credit to the original author and to *The Resonator*. All material is copyright ©2024-05-06. Do not copy or reproduce any of this material without the written permission of FLARC.

**Thanks!
for your
Support!!**

This is YOUR club.... Be a part of it !!



**FAIR LAWN'S
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER!**

With Our Antennas On The Roof!



Pop-Up Tuesday Happenings**Pop-Up Tuesday****Tuesdays at 19:00 ET****LIVE at the club!**

Steve WI2W testing his portable antenna, assisted by Noel W2MSA and Robert KE2CYX during pop up Tuesday. Steve was able to tune the antenna without using an analyzer and made one successful contact.


**FLARC April 20, 2023
VE Testing Results**

With VE testing back on schedule, Gene W02W reports the following results:

Name	Call	License Earned
Paul Kaltenbach	KE2DFO	Technician
Cody Millo	KE2DEQ	Technician
Jacinto Morel Jr	KE2DER	Technician
Raymond Rivera Jr	KE2DFZ	Technician
Robert Paterson	KE2CYX	General
Gerard Quelch	KE2CYA	General
Michael Schreck	KD2WKD	Extra
Thomas J Daly	KE2CPS	Extra
Melkon Urkumyan	N2VZR	Extra

Testing for next month will be at the Fair Lawn Recreation Center.

**Eleven Special Interest Groups [SIGs]
Already Formed: Any Others?**

A new SIG—Radio Direction Finding—has started under the tutelage of Bob KD2BKD. Club interest continues to grow in the SIGs.

Another recently formed SIG is for those interested in Raspberry Pi and Arduino projects, but now includes DoltYourself (DIY)/Makers kit building, 3D printing and similar topics – also managed by KD2BKD.

A list of all of the current SIGs is shown on page 6.

Other possible groups, from the member survey, include:

- *Radio Propagation*
- *Antennas and how they work*
- *Ham radio software*
- *Technical assistance to club members*

Anyone interested in leading any of these groups...?

Please contact webmaster@FairLawnARC.org

Around the Shack

– Hal Kennedy N4GG

PL-259s Redux**Doing it right – Max-Gain Systems**

This is the 72nd *Around the Shack* column. The first column appeared in December, 2017. A few of the columns stand out. The February 2019 column titled “Mystery UHF Connectors” is one of those – it has received more interest than any other. That's understandable – every ham handles PL-259s.

Around the Shack is currently carried in three newsletters. The first 36 columns – significantly rewritten - also appear in a book: *Ham Radio Tips and Tales*. Over time, the feedback I've received indicates a wider readership than I would have expected.

In addition to comments received directly, parts of the mystery UHF connector column were picked up by the ARRL and incorporated into the ARRL Handbook and the ARRL Antenna Book.

In 2019 my recommendation for UHF connectors was simple: “Amphenol or not at all.” That's an old-timer's saying; I first heard it during my novice days in the 1960s. The column did, however, mention two excellent alternatives to Amphenol. Those are Max-Gain Systems (MGS) of Marietta, GA and The RF Connection in Gaithersburg, MD.

Both Amphenol alternatives are family-owned businesses where the owners have decided to offer high-quality products at a fair price. Both companies sell connectors manufactured for them to their own specifications.

By intent, MGS took the ultimate step – they designed their UHF connectors to be as good as they possibly could be. Cost was secondary - quality and performance came first. In my humble opinion, the MGS PL-259 is the best available today and, somehow, it's sold for \$2.25 in quantities of one. Well done MGS.

Where can you get an MGS PL-259 or other UHF connector? MGS attends the larger hamfests and has an extensive website: <https://mgs4u.com/>

What makes MGS PL-259s so special? Here are the design requirements MGS used:

- The part must be as good as it can possibly be.
- The part has to be fully specified, no “mystery” is allowed.
- The mechanical dimensions have to be true to the definitions covering UHF connectors and the tolerances have to be tight. Some customers use these connectors in a production environment – the product has to be consistent from buy to buy, batch to batch and year to year.
- The part has to be easily soldered without the use of flux.
- The center insulator and center pin have to withstand abuse, including blowtorch temperatures during assembly. The insulator can't allow the center pin to migrate under any circumstances.
- The center pin ID has to accept the center conductor of LMR-400 and 3/8" Heliax.

Continued on next page.

Around the Shack, Continued

- The part has to have a breakdown voltage as least as good as the best connector in the market.
- Design criteria for the mating SO-239 must match those of the PL-259. The flange has to be "16V." (See Figure 1.) Cheap SO-239s are usually "4V."

Max-Gain Systems SO-239

- The part has to be affordable – but that's last on the list after everything else is accomplished.

A connector is no better than the company that makes, sells and supports it. Here are MGS's support practices:

- All UHF connectors are fully supported. You can call MGS (on the telephone!) and someone will answer. That person can discuss the parts in detail, spec by spec.
- The parts are available. Sufficient inventory is kept to fill large orders.
- Incoming parts are inspected and incoming lots are rejected if need be. This doesn't happen with \$1 "mystery connectors." \$1 connectors can't be inspected – there are no specifications to inspect them to.

- Full documentation is available to customers on the internet, including engineering drawings and installation guides.

How well does MGS meet their goals, both for the part and for themselves as a company?

All connectors are silver plated with jewelry-quality silver. This insures solderability without the use of flux. All the components are plated, for example the nut, the body and the pin of a PL-259. No gold is used. Gold has less conductivity than silver – it is strictly a marketing gimmick.

The outside nut, body and center pin are made of solid brass.

The center insulator is made from PTFE (the generic name for Teflon). The center pin is molded in, not inserted then swaged. The insulator and pin can take blow-torch temperatures and when red-hot, the pin can be hit with a hammer and not move. Doubt that? MGS has documented it in a YouTube video called "PL-259 Prototype Testing" —

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Nz2qRrQdUA>

MGS PL-259s are so rugged they can be reused by heating the entire connector (most likely with a torch) and slamming it against a block of wood. The solder will fly out – the connector is ready to use again.

The "back thread" (where UG inserts screw in) is cut properly. This is often not the case with \$1 connectors.

Continued on next page.

Around the Shack, Continued

In HiPot testing, the measured breakdown voltage is 700 volts higher than that of an Amphenol PL-259!

The connector center pin accepts LMR-400 and 3/8" Heliax – every time. Everything is the same – every time.

The part's design is specified and the specs are published. You can go to the MGS web site and pull up the blueprints for their PL-259. The dimensions, plating, etc. are publicly available.

\$1 "mystery connectors" never come with specifications. How will tomorrow's "mystery PL-259" compare to today's? No one knows, including the sellers.

The parts are made offshore but not in China. Quality comes ahead of cost. MGS began selling self-designed PL-259s in 1989. From the beginning, incoming parts have been inspected and vendors changed when necessary to maintain product quality. MGS suppliers meet environmental standards – something not easily (and rarely) done when dealing offshore.

I'll close with this question: How does a product of this quality and with this level of support wind up costing \$2.25 in quantities of one? The answer lies in quantity. MGS buys 170,000 to 200,000 PL-259s at a time! If you think that's an impossibly large quantity for the ham market you are right, and yet, that's only a one year's supply for MGS. MGS's customers include resellers and commercial companies. Orders can be for as many as 5,000 at a time. Customers include companies like GM and national laboratories including Oak Ridge.

Figure 2 is a picture of an MGS PL-259.



Figure 3 shows the "sales channel" at the Orlando Hamcation. The photos make the part look mundane – it's not, it's high-tech!



For more information see:

<https://mgs4u.com/product/pl-259-uhf-male-solder-connector-for-0-405-inch-od-coax-7500-uhf/#torture>

73, Hal N4GG

Hal Kennedy is a long time friend of several FLARC members, and he is currently a member of FLARC himself. He grew up in Bergen County and was originally WA2QPW. After that he went on to a very impressive career in the electronics industry. See FLARC web page.

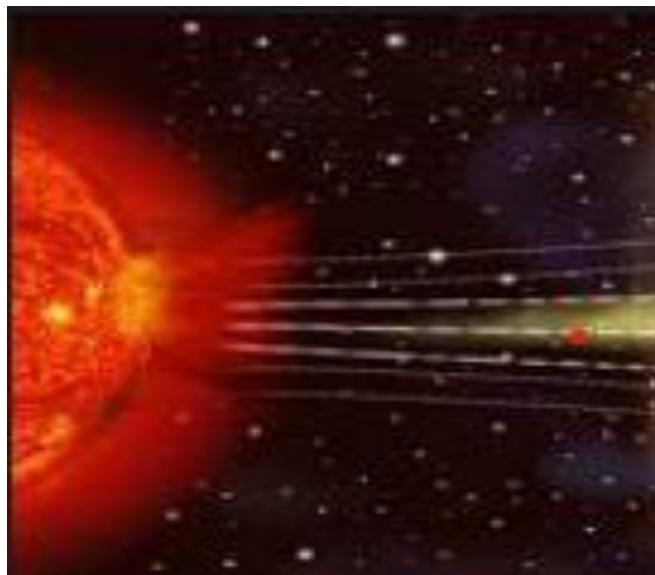
While this article may seem like an advertisement for MGS, we saw it more as a product review with useful background info for our readers.

Theoretics Demystified

This time the subject is the MAGNETOSPHERE and how it relates to HAM RADIO and our very existence. It is a region of space surrounding the earth consisting of the earth's magnetic field. This field is created by the inner movements of conductive materials that make up the earth's inner core. This is the same principle that says that there must be movement of a magnetic field to produce electron flow in a wire and conversely electron flow will produce a magnetic field.

The movement of liquid inner iron core produces the magnetic lines of force that surround the earth that interact with the ionized particles and electrons in the upper atmosphere. This magnetic field is what we call the magnetosphere. The magnetosphere is very important as it protects our planet from the solar wind which is damaging to us.

Mars lost its magnetosphere 4.2 billion years ago and as a result the solar wind stripped away the atmosphere, leaving Mars as the barren world that it is now. The solar wind periodically connects to our magnetosphere causing openings in the field, thereby letting energy pour into the atmosphere.



Above is an illustration of HOW the earth's magnetic field or magnetosphere protects the earth. We can see the solar wind being deflected by the magnetosphere thereby protecting life on earth.

The solar wind, especially from coronal mass ejections, can and has been very damaging to anything electrical and electronic. This leads us to how this all affects our hobby HAM RADIO and electronics in general. Without the sun's influence there would

be no ionization of the atmosphere and no signals reflected back to earth. The magnetosphere [earth's magnetic field] lets just enough solar wind, energy from the sun, to enable the ionization of the atmosphere enabling radio communication as we know it.

Back in the day when telegraph was widely in use by the railroads, solar storms were responsible for blowing apart telegraph lines that were strung between distant points. Not to mention the damage to equipment in use at the time. In short, the earth's magnetic field is a shield from the solar and cosmic rays!

On the night side of our planet the magnetosphere is driven past and away from the night side of the planet. [See the illustration above]. Previous articles have dealt with the ionized layers of the atmosphere and how they affect radio communications. The study of the earth's magnetic field is called Geomagnetics.

Studies have indicated that we may soon be experiencing a magnetic pole reversal as the magnetic north pole has been shifting, which is called polar wandering.

Polar wandering is movement of magnetic poles over the surface of the earth. This is a very slow process of movement through geologic time and leads to pole reversals which have happened relatively infrequently.

How this affects HAM RADIO is that the magnetosphere is subject to disturbances from the sun called coronal mass ejections or CMEs for short. CMEs are comprised of plasma which is electrically conductive and is composed of positive and negative particles, but the negative charges are carried by electrons. A CME can have destructive effects on any electronic or electrical piece of equipment as the energy they can unleash will induce unwanted and disastrous effects on any equipment not protected [called hardened].

A good practice is to disconnect your antennas when not in use. This will only help protect your equipment from a light disturbance and lightning besides. Nothing will protect from a catastrophic CME, and I hope never to have to endure one. Light CMEs benefit radio communications as they further excite the ionosphere layers improving terrestrial communications but can and are disastrous to orbiting satellites and especially the space station astronauts.

Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

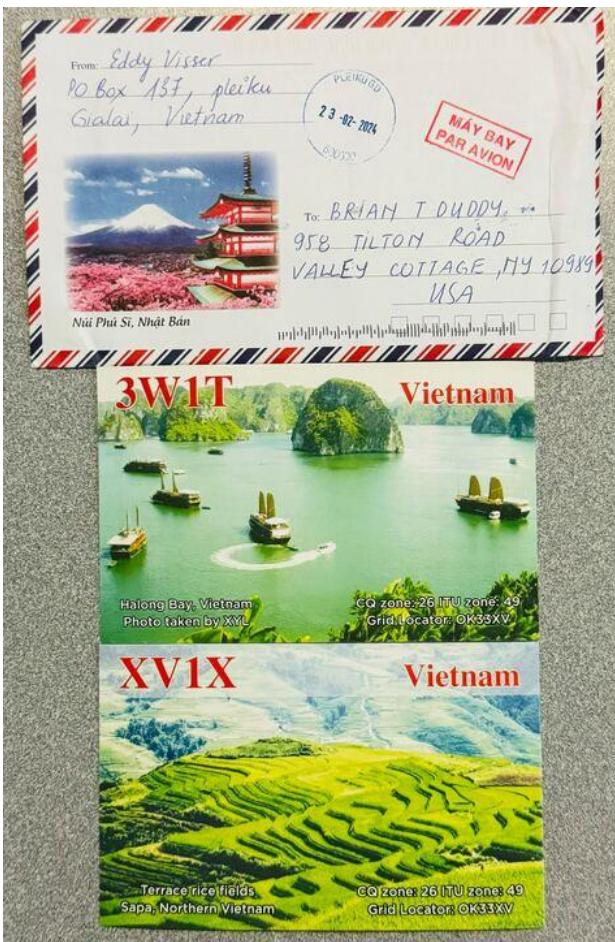
Copyright material used with implicit permission of the author.

Travel the world on radio waves!

One of the areas of our Ham Radio hobby is “working DX” — that is, making two way radio contact with far away countries, and especially countries with very few ham operators.

FLARC member Brian N2BTD, like many others of us, takes that one step further and collects QSL Cards from many of these rare countries.

Here is one he recently received —



Not only do these cards often have beautiful pictures of the country and people, they often come with beautiful stamps, carefully canceled.



HAMSPEAK

MAGNETOSPHERE:

The name of the earth's magnetic field which is generated by the movement of iron masses within the inner core of the earth.

SOLAR WIND:

The term used to describe the continuous flow of cosmic energy from the sun outward towards earth and the solar system.

CME:

Stands for Coronal Mass Ejection which is an exceptional burst of cosmic energy from the sun. CMEs can be very harmful if they are big enough to penetrate the earth's magnetic field.

IONIZATION LAYERS IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE:

These layers act as mirrors reflecting radio signals headed towards space back into the atmosphere. The ‘D’ region almost totally disappears at night since its free electrons recombine with oxygen atoms at night.

PLASMA:

An electrically conductive media [a gas] that exists when the atoms in the gas become ionized.

Fred Wawra W2ABE, 73.

Graduation

FLARC member Renee KD2JEZ, daughter of Lee KD2DRS, will graduate with honors from Connecticut College this May with a major in botany and a minor in chemistry.

She is the recipient of the Ted W4VHF and Itice K4LVV, Goldthorpe and the L.B. Cebik W4RNL and Jean Cebik N4TZP Memorial scholarships, awarded through the ARRL.

This fall she'll be attending graduate school for plant pathology at Cornell on a Denison fellowship.





FLARC PortableOps SIG

PortableOps@FairLawnARC.groups.io

This is a Special Interest Group (SIG) for members interested in portable ham radio operation such as POTA, SOTA, IOTA, LOTA, etc.

The purpose of this SIG is to get outdoors and practice our operating skills from different places. We can share outing experiences, tips and work on our operating skills.

Chris KE2NJ took advantage of a recent Spring day to take his POTA setup to Liberty State Park – which overlooks the lower Manhattan skyline (with some quite recognizable buildings).



He took this masterfully arranged photo to show off his nifty mast with a dipole (and a flag) at the top.

Apparently it was so impressive that soon he had a visit from the “I don’t know what you’re doing, so I need to ask and bust your chops” park police!

You can see the surprise and bewilderment on Chris’ face as the officer is back at his vehicle, probably calling in to the Park Police office...



I can't believe what just happened...

Meanwhile, Jim W2JC has been adding refinements to the POTA setup in his Honda Pilot which he is liking much more than the little Honda Civic he was driving for 22 years!

The latest was to set up the solar panel on the roof, and have the sun charging the portable battery that supplies all the equipment – an FT-891, a Little Tarheel antenna with a Tunematic auto tuner and laptop for FT8/FT4 and logging.



With full afternoon sun, it was charging the battery with 2.5 Amps – which can extend operating time very nicely. And another small, but very useful, project was to install two panel voltmeters on the dashboard. One monitors the voltage of the battery running the rigs, etc. and the other shows the voltage of the car battery – to be sure it doesn’t get run down from open doors or overhead lights left on by mistake! The meters were very economical.



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08TBVTCRK>



For FLARC membership info and renewal/application form please visit:

membership.FairLawnARC.org

FLARC Dues, new and renewal, (and even donations!) can now be made on-line ...

[Please note that this is a temporary improvement while Dave KD2JIP works on a real, full-fledged web page for filling out the membership/renewal form and submitting that and payment on-line.]

Payments can be made using either PayPal or Zelle.

Here's how—

Using PayPal —

Log into your PayPal account at

<https://www.paypal.com>

At top right, select "My PayPal"

Under Quick links, select "Send Money"

In the window showing

Name, email or mobile number
enter this email address:

1947xyzabc1947@gmail.com

Click on [Next]

Enter \$ amount you
are sending, & in
"add a note" area
type in your CALL
SIGN and which
year
the dues are for, &
any other
explanation.



Click on [Continue]

Click on the [Change] button

Click on "Sending to a friend" link



Sending to a friend

No fee to use bank or balance to send to
friends and family in the U.S.

You will see a summary of your transaction;
if no changes are required, click on

[Send Payment Now]

to complete your transaction.

\$

Using Zelle —

If you are using Zelle through your bank
account, just send your dues to the following
number: 201-240-9317

Don't forget to add in the note/message
section your callsign and that it is for your dues.

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN ->

For a PDF form that can be filled in on-line, then printed and mailed with check, [CLICK HERE](#)

Or you can print this page, fill it in and mail to the address shown at the bottom.



Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club

*Fair Lawn Recreation and Community Center
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410*

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ PO Box _____ Ste./Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Roster Published Phone # _____ Unpublished Phone # _____

Roster Published EMAIL _____ License class: _____

Check all that apply ARRL Member ? RACES Member ? ARES Member ? CERT ? VE ?

Additional Family Members (In same household) --

Name _____ Call _____

Name _____ Call _____

Introductory and Student Membership \$ 20 \$ _____

(Students under the age of 18 eligible for student membership)
(Introductory membership open to new members
or not a member in last 7 yrs)

Associate Membership * (No Fee)

* Open to Fair Lawn Residents Only. No voting rights or other privileges.

Renewal of Current Membership \$ 25 \$ _____

Three Year Renewal Incentive \$ 65 \$ _____

(Single memberships only, family memberships excluded)

Additional Family Members # _____ at \$ 5 each \$ _____

Life Membership \$ 625 \$ _____

Senior Life Membership (65 yrs. of age or over) \$ 250 \$ _____

Equipment Fund Donation, above regular membership dues \$ _____

Total submitted \$ _____

Date _____

I hereby acknowledge the By laws and rules and regulations of the club and will abide by them as amended

Please Note: Memberships are NOT Pro-Rated. Membership is from Jan 1st to Dec. 31st of any given year unless documented otherwise.

Please make your dues check payable to the "Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club" and remit to the following address:

**Fair Lawn ARC
– Attn: Treasurer
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**

Complete this form for NEW or RENEWAL ARRL membership and give to FLARC Treasurer [David Gotlib KD2MOB] with your payment check.



ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application

- I am a brand-new member, or my membership lapsed for 2 or more years. My club will receive a \$15 commission.
- I am renewing (includes lapsed members of less than 2 years). My club will receive a \$5.00 commission.

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

- My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (Annually \$10 per member)

Name _____

Name _____

Your Annual Membership Dues -

Circle Your Choice

	3 Years	2 Years	1 Year
US Membership	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (Digital Only)	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (with mailed QST)	\$217	\$147	\$76
Blind	\$30	\$20	\$10
Family	\$30	\$20	\$10
Student			\$25

TOTAL \$

Choose your print magazine -

Check One

- QST**, ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs (12 monthly issues)
- On the Air**, Beginner-to-intermediate-level help and advice (6 bimonthly issues)
- Digital Only** (All members can access the digital versions of both magazines)

Payment

Enclosed is my: Check Money Order Charge Request

Charge to my: Visa Mastercard Amex Discover

Card Number Expiration Date

Card Holders Signature

Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400
membership@arrl.org • www.arrl.org/join

May 2024

FLARC Business Meeting

FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES of BUSINESS MEETING
Fair Lawn Senior Center
May 3, 2024

The Club's President Fred KR2H called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. At his request the members present in person rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President then asked the Club Secretary Jim W2KNG to call the roll. The Secretary called the following:

President,	Fred	KR2H	Present
Vice President	Robert	KD2SOG	Present
Treasurer,	Dave	KD2MOB	Present
Secretary,	Jim	W2KNG	Present
Trustee,	Van	W2DLT	Present
Trustee,	Brian	KD2KLN	Present
Trustee,	Judith	KC2LTM	Present (by Zoom)

The Secretary confirmed to the President that a quorum existed in order for the meeting to proceed and business conducted.

The President then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 6, 2024. Upon motion made by Skip KD2BRV and seconded by Brian KD2KLN the minutes were unanimously approved.

The President then asked for the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer, Dave KD2MOB gave his report. He stated that the Club was in good shape financially. He reported that the Club had a new Life Member, Arthur WA2KXE. He also noted that Arthur has made a generous donation to the equipment fund. He also welcomed a new member, Raymond KE2DFZ. The Treasurer went on to describe some checks he had written on the Club account. Finally he reported that as of today there are 129 paid members. There was still time to pay 2024 dues, he added, and shortly he will be sending out reminders to members who have not yet paid their dues. Upon motion made by Noel W2MSA and seconded by Brian KD2KLN the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

The President then asked Jim W2KNG to make a report of the Administration Committee. He stated the Committee is actively considering the most optimal organizational structure.

Steve WI2W next reported on the Tech Committee. He began by thanking Jim W2JC for cleaning up the antenna patch panel and cables. Jim reported that he has provided a place for band pass filters for all bands and set up a simple system to connect and disconnect filters, eliminating a lot of clutter. Gene WO2W asked if members should connect a filter even if only one station is operating and Jim answered yes, it would result in a cleaner signal.

Steve WI2W then continued with the Tech Committee report. The first issue is that the rotor controller is blowing fuses and binding at approximately 45 and 315 degrees. The steps needed to troubleshoot will be to test the rebuilt [spare] rotor at the clubhouse. If that is OK, then we will need to arrange roof access to

May 2024

FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

test mast plumb (possibly bent) and thrust bearing. This test does not require a tower climber. If that is OK, then we will swap rotors and test. If that is OK, then we will send the existing rotor (purchased in Aug 2023) for warranty repair.

Next Steve reported on proposed antenna changes on the roof.

As to the main tower the steps will be as follows:

1. Remove the Optibeam;
2. Purchase a SkyHawk and 12/17 Yagis, and
3. Install a 10/15/20 meter SkyHawk, a 12/17 WARC Yagi, and the existing 2 meter beam.
He noted that Van W2DLT has a source from Frankford Radio Club at cost of \$700 for the SkyHawk and 12/17 antennas.

As to the second tower: the Tech Committee would like to install a new 6 meter Yagi and 2 meter vertical (for repeater) antenna. This requires the purchase of 6 M Yagi and 2M vertical at a cost to be determined. This antenna reconfiguration would allow 2/6/10/15/20/40 and 12 or 17 to be on the air simultaneously, or any combination. This is useful to get access to 6/10/12 meters. The Tech Committee is going to see if it can change the 40 meter antenna to one that would allow 40 and 80 meters.

As to the FLARC 2 meter repeater, the Tech Committee will perform preventative maintenance over next two weeks and check the receive and transmit performance. Finally the Tech Committee would like to purchase a 10/15/20 triplexer for the Club. The current triplexer is on loan from Van W2DLT.

Brian KD2KLN next asked what the Tech Committee would like to do with the old repeater antenna. Steve answered that the Tech Committee would like to keep it and perhaps put it in a better location at some point in the future. Finally Steve added that a push to talk (PTT) button has been added at stations 1 and 4 so that can be used instead of the foot pedal.

Jim W2JC also added that if any member finds any problem with any of the equipment, there are forms in the Clubhouse the member should fill out and leave on the desk in the office.

The President then stated that Bill WA2WL has resigned from the Tech Committee for personal reasons and therefore he has appointed Noel W2MSA to join the Tech Committee.

The President then asked for a report from the Quartermaster. Fred W2ABE answered that he has installed a security night at the Clubhouse and that when members leave the Clubhouse they should turn off the main light and turn on the security light, then turn it off with the switch next to the exit door. Steve WI2W thanked Fred and said this makes exiting the Clubhouse much easier.

There was no report from the Marketing Committee.

Robert KD2SOG reported on the Youth Committee. He stated that it was a difficult time of year to get teachers' attention as they were focused on finishing up the school year. He did add that in connection with the upcoming event at Paterson Falls he will have material to hand out to the students participating in that event.

Jim W2JC then continued to discuss the Earth Day event at Paterson Great Falls. He reported that everything was set for the event, at which 300 students from Paterson will come to the park to clean up

May 2024

FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

along the river and learn about environmental conservation. Jim was at the park yesterday and met with the Park Ranger, who told him the FLARC presentation is one of the highlights of the event. The Club will have a POTA station, WO2X will operate his HF station remote and several members will have 2 meter HTs so students can talk over the radio.

Jim W2JC then gave the webmaster report. He reminded members that all Club events are on the Club calendar <http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>. He also reported that some emails are still bouncing. Judith KC2TLM has contacted some of the members to whom this has been happening and several issues have been cleaned up. If any member is not receiving emails from groups.io, please email webmaster@FairLawnARC.org

Also, he reminded members that there is a sub-group in io for each SIG. In addition to email conversations, there are places to store files, a calendar that the SIG Leader can use just for SIG events. He also noted the newsletter is getting very little material from the SIGs except for POTA and EMCOMM. He added that if you want to create interest in your SIG, it would make a lot of sense to contribute material to the newsletter.

No QSLs have been received this month, but new DXCC entities have been worked for W2NPT by Fred KR2H and George W3EH. Finally he reminded members that politics, religion and music are not appropriate on the Club repeater.

The President then asked Gene WO2W to discuss the Fair Lawn Memorial Day Parade. Gene said he needs 4-5 cars with HTs to handle communications for the parade. Those who are participating should meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot behind Memorial School. The Club reports on parade divisions and their progress through the parade route and gives updated information to the reviewing stand so proper introductions can be made.

Robert KD2SOG then read the Social Media Committee report submitted by Thom W2NZ. The YouTube channel has 1,366 subscribers, up 14 in the last 28 days. Also in the last 28 days there were 1,700 views for 235.6 watch-time hours.

The top views were Ken Britain WA5VJB on **All You Need to Know About Yagis**, followed by **How to Learn and Have Fun With Morse Code** and **EME Done Simple: Digital Modes at 50 Watts**.

Jim N2JLF reported on EMCOMM. He said that tomorrow there will be a Simulated Emergency Test (a "SET") from 10:00-11:00 AM. The Northeast New Jersey ARES Field Conference will be held May 24 at which time he will give WinLink training. This will be held in Fairfield NJ at the Red Cross facility beginning at 9:30 AM. The Northeast New Jersey ARES Net is held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays for voice and the 2nd and 4th Wednesday on WinLink.

Dave KD2MOB reported on the Fair Lawn RACES and said members were getting new badges from the Fair Lawn OEM. The RACES net meets on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays of each month on the FLARC Repeater.

The President remarked that Field Day is 7 weeks away. He asked Noel W2MSA to give an update. Noel stated that the last meeting was a meeting of the Antenna Committee and everything seemed to be

May 2024

FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

under control. There are 17 members who have expressed interest in participating, though certainly the event could use all the help and member participation as possible. Noel reviewed the committees and said each had been staffed. These committees are: Station Captains, Antenna Committee, Power Management Committee, Food and Drink Committee, Technical Committee (logging, computer connections, etc.), Publicity Committee, General Help (transporting equipment, setting up and general hands on assistance) and Bonus Points Committee. The President suggested another meeting would be a good idea and Noel said he would set one up via Zoom.

Gene WO2W reported on VE Sessions, He said there had been 10 candidates last session: 5 new Techs, 2 Generals, 1 Extra and one no pass. The next VE Session will be held May 18. In response to a question from the floor he told the meeting that FLARC will not be doing virtual sessions.

Gene also took the opportunity to express his and the Club's condolences to Nomar NP4H on the passing of his mother. Nomar is still in Puerto Rico settling things. Judith KC2LTM reported that she had sent a sympathy card from the Club to Nomar.

Gene also reported that he and Nomar, representing the ARRL, had decided to move the Club's Hamfest to September 7 with a rain date of September 21 in light of the Wayne ARC holding its hamfest on September 14, which was the Club's original date.

Judith KC2TLM then reported on Health and Welfare. She said in addition to the card she sent to Nomar she had sent a get well card to Steve KA2YRA who had had some medical issues but was now better.

The President then asked Fred W2ABE to bring all the hard copy data and material he has complied on member inactivity to the next meeting.

Noel W2MSA, as Station Manager, reminded the members that if any member has any ideas or suggestions regarding equipment or procedures to please let him know.

The President then told the meeting that in the past the Club had given awards to members who, over a long period of time, had made major contributions to the Club. It was now time, he said, to once again give out awards to members who deserve special recognition for long and meritorious service to the Club. There are four such members whom the Club would like to honor in a special way with an award in the form of an engraved clock. Of the four, two were present this evening.

He asked Jim W2JC and Van W2DLT to step forward and receive these well deserved awards. To a round of resounding applause Jim and Van were given their awards. The other two awards will be given to Paul W2IP and Ed WX2R.

There being no further business, upon motion made by Robert N2SU and seconded by Brian KD2KLN, a motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Jalil W2KNG
Secretary